DOINGS OF THE VAN LOONS



The GIRL W MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

10 CO 0000

into the garden.

Thus challenged, Ward had nothing

After dinner he left early, but he did

he strode on, he remembered many

things. The girl was without the sheet-

exterior he was in the thrall of the

flercest jeulousy. This little fair-

God, had taken a powerful hold on

boing through the empty building.

cline our hearts to keep this law."

In the palm of her left glove Elinor

had the Bryant pear-shaped pearl.

quickly out into the sunshine.

At the eleven o'clock service Ward

announced the burning of the parish

"Thou shalt not steal."

The morning was warm and the win-

faded into the dawn.

said:

SYNOPSIS.

MARY ROBERTS RINEHART

AUTHOR OF "K" "THE MAN IN LOWER TEN" ETC.

Chapter 1-Old Hilary Kingston, starting with Socialism, drifts into an archy, and gathers round him in the hall above the village of Woffingham a band of accomplished desperadoes who rob the rich, incite seditions and orm the rebellious. His motherless daughter, Elinor, is raised to fine living and wrong thinking, to no law and no Christ.

Chapter II-In an attack on the Agrarian bank messenger, old Hilary is killed, but is not suspected of complicity. Boroday brings the body home to the hall.

Chapter III-Ward, assistant rector of St. Jude's, makes a call of condolence on Elinor, who consents to have her father buried from St. Jude's in the odor of sanctity. The chief of police recognizes Boroday and is suspicious.

CHAPTER IV.—After the funeral people scattered over the building. She the band meet at the hall and agree sat far back and was heavily veiled. to go on as before. Elinor acting in When the congregation knelt, she her father's stead. Huff asks Elinor knelt. An old woman in the next pew to marry him and she consents, though she does not lave him. Boroday is arrested and threatened.

Chapter V-Bododay in jail, Talbo. plans a raid on the Country Club, The from the parish house crept in. friendship between Ward and Elinor ripens to something deeper. She en- from the Decalogue, and the people vies him his faith.

Chapter VI-Huff burns St. Jude's parish house. Elinor offers to help rebuild it and is angry with Huff.

-6-

CHAPTER VII-Hufi plans to rob Ward of the money collected to reand Huff is jealous.

"Frankly, Mr. Ward," she said, ignoring her fish, "I do not approve of it. It's the feminist movement, I tell you. Before long they'll want to be on the vestry."

Ward glanced up, half smiling. The pear-shaped pearl, which usually hung at his hostess' withered throat, was. naturally, not there. From the pearl to the parish house, from the parish house to Elinor-thus in two leans of Ward's mind he was far from the subject in hand.

"As president of the Chancel society," said Mrs. Bryant, "as honorary president of the Woman's guild. I protest against women in the choir."

Back to the choir with a jump came Ward's errant mind.

"I wonder," Ward reflected, "whether a matter of tradition and custom will prevent women from singing in the heavenly choir!"

Mrs. Bryant stabbed at her fish. But she had not finished. There were many things about Saint Jude's that did not please her. The burish of old Hilary Kingston had been one. She seized on that.

"A non-communicant," she snapped. "An infidel, an atheist! The daughter is living alone up there at this minute. It isn't respectable. It's a bad example to the girls in the village. The house is full of men all the time."

"That must be a mistake." "It is quite true. Servants talk, you know. What can you expect? Raised

out of the church, with no belief, and, of course, no moral instruction." Ward bent forward over the table. "That is a very serious statement,

Mrs. Bryant." His eyes were like steel. "Of course you are not basing it merely on what you hear from serv-

Mrs. Bryant flushed, a purplish spot in the center of each sagging cheek. "I do not gossip with the servants,"

she said, shortly. "It is common talk. And there are other things. Machines come and go from the house at queer hours of the night. The girl spends a great deal of money. Where does she get it? Where, for that mutter, did old Bilary Kingston get it?"

the thing it is to me, the broader religion of universal brotherhood, the church building is not enough. "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

taken up in the collection at Saint thing yourself?" Jude's that morning. Over fifty thousand was in checks, the rest was in

Walter Huff, sitting alone in the back of the church, had watched Ward intently through the service.

in a Presbyterian household. He had had a right-" come to jeer, to watch with his thief's not go home. He went up the hill. As eyes the offertory piling into the silver plates. But the service told on him. Somewhere down in his violent young anchor of any belief, adrift and alone, heart there crept a sense of shame. It and he had made no attempt to help was only when he looked at Ward that her unbelief. Although it was after his eyes hardened.

ten, the house was still lighted downstairs, and he went without hesitation him and his girl-this white-handed, Thus it happened that he saw Elinor in a dozen words could compet the peo- know what it means," in Huff's arms, saw him thrust her vio- , ple before him to lay a fortune at his lently from him, and rush away across feet-Huff ground his teeth together. the flower-beds, leaving her there But something of unwilling admiration was mixed with his scorn. This was no mean adversary, this Ward; a man, Ward remained in the shadows. To every inch of him. He would beat him save his life he could not have spoken out if he had to kill him to do it. to Elinor then. Under his constrained

Huff stayed in church after the service. He accosted Mr. Bryant, one of known its hiding-place." haired girl, to whom his God was no the vestrymen, as the congregation filed out.

"I don't like to ask you to talk Elinor, who slept little that night, saw the light in his window until it think it's going to be mighty incon- for the city to mail the letter. venient until you get the new build-Elinor went to the early communion ling."

"Horrible," said the vestryman, "No put her hand on his arm. the following day. The church was dark. There were hardly two dozen fire is ever convenient, but this-" Huff drew a business card from his

pocket. willing to talk about a temporary gave her the prayer book open at the building," he said. "We specialize in service. On her knees then went Elithings like that. Wood, you know, and nor and listened to Ward's fine voice weather-proof, but inexpensive."

The last word caught Mr. Bryant's

dows open. The odor of burned wood "Seems to me." Huff went on, "the choir boys need a place to dress in. "Thou shalt not steal," Ward read You couldn't ask them to not on their surplices at home and walk over here." "We had thought of a tent," Mr. Bry-"Lord have mercy upon us and inant said uncertainly. "But if you care to look around-'

"Never mind about me," said Huff largely. "I'll just glance over the place myself. You'd better attend to that Ward had not seen her. He went fortune you took up in the collection through the service reverently, with an this morning."

impressiveness of voice and bearing "The assistant rector has taken that showed how real it was to him, charge of that," Mr. Bryant observed, build the parish house. Elinor objects And in his voice, reading, exhorting, and after that for half an hour he commanding, there were tender notes and Huff talked board floors, tar-paper that caught Elinor's breath in her roofs and electric installation in the temporary headquarters,

When the service was over, she rose Huff made careful notes in his from her knees and dropped the Bry- pocket notebook. They included the ant pearl into the alms-box by the length and breadth of a temporary door. The congregation, small and building, the residence of the assistscattered, was still kneeling. The ant rector, a stove in the temporary decreasy and the alms-box were in twi- structure for cold days, the amount of collection, and the time at which Drawing down her veil, she went evening service was over on Sun4 day night.

CHAPTER IX.

"It is not my intention to make an Talbot, running out to the country appeal," he said simply. "The parish club that afternoon for his Sunday house was built to fill a great need; game of golf, stopped off at the hall, that need still exists. If our church is He found Elinor lunching alone in to be an element in the daily lives of the arbor, which commanded a view the people of this town, we must have of the valley.

"I brought out a letter from Boroday," he said, producing it. "He wrote it yesterday morning, but I did not stop at the Dago's until an hour or so

ago." The Dago was the owner of a gambling-house far downtown-a sort of fact that it drew its clientele from the ipper as well as lower walks of life. Huff, acting in his taxicab capacity as steerer, was able to come and go without suspicion.

Talbot could not read old Hilary's ryptic shorthand. Only three had known it: Boroday, old Hilary himself, and Elinor.

Elinor ran through it while Talbot ate a sandwich. She was rather white when she looked up.

"It's about the Bryant pearl," she inerpreted. "Boroday says that if the chief gets it back he will let him go. The chief's reputation is hanging on it. The Bryants are influential."

She read the last paragraph aloud to

"On your lives, boys, do what I tell in the city. If everything is all right, the work of militant suffragettes. I'll be able to get out to Woffingham in a week, perhaps less. This will make the church plan unnecessary and redeve Elinor's mind. I see you got the he is a wonderful person, really. Just parish house. It was foothardy and

Talbot rose and stretched himself. a meeting prace for them. For the "Wonderful day for golf," he said. worship of our God, the church build-'Now let's have the pearl and I am ing is sufficient, but if religion is to you off."

Elinor's eyes were pitiful.

"Wouldn't any other pearl do?" He glanced down at her quizzically. "Where's your mind, Elinor? If you lose a dog and want it back, will any this column not exceeding five lines,

"I have given it away." said Elinor. rather gray.

"To whom?" "The jewels were always mine," protested Elinor, defending herself, "You

Unlike Elinor, Huff had been raised have always told me that. I thought I "To whom?" "I put it in the almsbox at Saint

> "Then it may still be there?" "I don't know."

Inde's this morning."

"In the name of God!" Talbot broke out "What possessed you to give the This man who had come between thing away? Whim or no whim, you have no right to risk the rest of us. If surpliced, prayer-reading priest, who that thing is traced back to you, you "Nobody saw me-"

But Talbot was pacing up and down. "There's only one chance," he said. "I'll send a special delivery to the chief, telling him the thing is in the almsbox. If it's still there, he'll get it Bldg. and return it. If it's already been discovered, at least he can claim to have

Talbot disgustedly relinquished his golf, and in the library of the hall wrote the anonymous letter to the business on Sunday," he said, "but I chief. Then, in his gray car, he set off

When he was in the car, the engine throbbing easily, Elinor ventured to

"Last night," she said rapidly, "Walter threatened all sorts of things; that he would get the morning collection at "I thought perhaps you might be Saint Jude's, that he would kill Mr. Ward. I am frightened, Tallie." Talbot patted her han

"We will get this fixed up so it won't be necessary; and as for the other, you know Walter. He was mad with jealousy last night. That's all talk." On that wild ride Talbot had little time to think, but, such as they were, his thoughts were of Elinor and her

to himself. "It's enough to make old Hilary turn over."

his temper, the madness of his passion telephone 648-W.

for the girl. Talbot was uneasy. Ellinor had an unexpected visitor that afternoon. It was the Bryant

White, but very dignified, Elinor came into the drawing room. But Mrs. Bryant had not come about the pearl.

"You must forgive a Sunday visit," she said. "But I have taken Mr. Bryant to the country club, and I wanted so much to come to see you." Elinor's color returned.

"It is very kind of you to come."

Mrs. Bryant's small, birdlike eyes darted over the room. The house was distinctly good form. Perhaps the girl FOR SALE-Vacant lots, either sin- when he had barely passed his youth, might be an acquisition to the social life

"The country club," said Mrs. Bryant aloud, "is full of disagreeable "Ah!" said Elinor. "Robbed! How interesting!"

"All my jewels, everything I pos- church this morning for rebuilding the sessed that was really worth while." "But surely the police-"

Mrs. Bryant flushed with anger. "The police!" she said. "It wouldn't my dear. The entire village is trying reach the diseased portion of the ear. surprise me at all to discover that the to marry him. There is talk of the There is only one way to cure catarpolice are in with the thieves. Look doctor's daughter, a common little that deafness and that is by a conunderworld clearing house. Its safety | at the condition of this country! It thing." for Talbot and the others lay in the has been terror-ridden for the last two or three years. You yourself are a victim. Your poor father!"

chair and spoke with great unction,

telligent bandits working in this neighborhood, Miss Kingston, a band of mur- into his life-never. derers. In these days of feminism, it wouldn't astonish me at all to discover that some woman is at the head of it. The things that have been planned have been so fiendishly ciever!"

Mrs. Revent rose. "It shows how demoralizing such things are," she said. "I assure you that I never look at a woman's throat these days without expecting to see my pearl."

From that dangerous ground she you Mail the pearl in a plain box to stepped quickly to the burning of the police headquarters. Mail it downtown | parish house, which she believed was

"The dear rector is not a feminist." she said. "His assistant, I fear, has a strong tendency in that direction. But imagine, seventy-eight thousand dollars was collected in Saint Jude's

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of the village. After all, religion was of lots together sufficient for gardenbecoming very broad. Even the best ing or poultry raising or one only as desired Now listen, these lots are placed on the bargain counter. The memories to me just now. It was less go. Better look into this, J. O. Harris & Son, Tel 957-W., Ottawa, Ill.

parish house!" She turned at the doorway.

"He's single and very attractive, by local applications as they cannot

When she had gone, Elinor, a little ness is caused by an inflamed condifaint and dizzy, went out on the ter- tion of the mucous lining of the race. She realized that the barrier be-Eustachian Tube. When this tube is Actually she had detested old Hilary, tween Ward and herself was not only inflamed you have a rumbling sound She sat forward on the edge of her of his faith against her unbelief. There or imperfect hearing and when it is was the insurmountable gulf to tween "There is a band of organized, in- his world and her world. She did not Unless the inflammation can be refit into his life. Into his arm, perhaps;

> Walter would try to get the money. She must get word to him somehow, for if the Bryant pearl was recovered and Boroday given his freedom, money would not be an immediate neces-She paced the terrace and tried to

for any case of Catarrhal Deafness think it out. For Taibot to go back to the city, an hour; for the delivery of the special delivery, another hour. Then the police would have to come out by train or motor. With the best of luck, it would be four o'clock before the pearl could be recovered.

There were a dozen possibilities: the chief might be out of town; the pearl might be recovered from the box without his assistance. In that case he would not hold to his agreement with Boroday.

TO BE CONTINUED.

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Cars arrive from the west at 1:00 gle or together. Can sell a number and, indeed, the whole of the poems in a. m., 8:45 a. m., 12:50 p. m., 6:50 p. the famous Kilmarnock edition were in., 11:35 p. m. written before he was twenty-five. But

Westbound cars leave Ottawa sta-

committed suicide in a fit of despair in Rock, Utica, La Salle, Peru, Spring a London garret when he was seven Valley, Ladd, De Pue, Bureau, Princeteen. He wrote the whole huge vol- ton, in ume of the Rowley poems when he A. M .- 5:10d, 5:50c, 6:50d, 8:30c.

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